

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /056 W
-----152104Z 050489 /66

R 151532Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9107
INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO

S E C R E T BUENOS AIRES 1232

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, ASEC, AR
SUBJECT: ERP DOCUMENT CALLING FOR POPULAR FRONT

REF: (A) QUITO 0951, (B) BUENOS AIRES 1027

1. FROM TEXT OF ARTICLE IT IS APPARENT IT BASED ON ERP COMMUNIQUE ISSUED LAST NOVEMBER. EFE HAS EXERCISED CONSIDERABLE LITERARY LICENSE HOWEVER. COMMUNIQUE DENOUNCES REPRESSIVE POLICIES OF VIDELA GOVERNMENT AND CALLS FOR POPULAR FRONT OF ALL PROGRESSIVE FORCES, BUT IT DOES NOT REPEAT NOT RENOUNCE ARMED STRUGGLE. IT ADMITS THAT AMONG PUPULAR FORCES THERE ARE CURRENTS OPPOSED TO ARMED STRUGGLE, BUT THIS IS MATTER TO BE LEFT FOR LATER DISCUSSION. MEANWHILE, ERP INTENDS TO PURSUE IT. AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1976, PER INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO GOA, THE ERP, ALONG WITH ITS POLITICAL ELEMENT, THE REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS' PARTY (PRT), WAS STILL GIVING PRIORITY ATTENTION TO TRYING TO ORGANIZE A RESISTANCE MOVEMENT TO THE GOVERNMENT,

2. ERP COMMUNIQUE FOUND NO RESPONSE AMONG "POPULAR FORCES" TO WHOM IT DIRECTED. UCR, INTRANSIGENTES, CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS, PCA AND OTHERS WHO WERE MENTIONED IN COMMUNIQUE DID METT RECENTLY TO DISCUSS CURRENT SITUATION AND THEIR POSITIONS IN IT, BUT ERP NOT INVITED AND NONE IS LIKELY TO EVEN CONSIDER

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INCLUDING IT IN ANY FUTURE COALESCENCE OF FORCES. AS ONE UCR REP PUT IT: "TO TALK TO ERP, IN EYES OF GOVERNMENT, WOULD PLACE US IN SAME BOAT WITH THEM, WHICH IS LAST THING WE WANT. ONLY REASON THEY ARE TALKING OF POPULAR FRONT NOW IS BECAUSE THEY HAVE BEEN DEFEATED MILITARILY. THERE WAS TIME WHEN THEY LUMPED US IN WITH AAA AS FASCISTS; NOW THEY APPEAL TO US FOR SUPPORT. NOTHING DOING."

3. INTERESTINGLY, THERE HAD BEEN EARLIER REPORTS, WHICH WE HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO CONFIRM, THAT ERP HAD INDEED TRIED TO NEGOTIATE WITH GOVERNMENT, OFFERING TO RENOUNCED ARMED STRUGGLE IN RETURN FOR GOA'S AGREEMENT TO TREAT ERP AS A LEGITIMATE POLITICAL PARTY IF IT DID SO. GOA REPORTEDLY REFUSED OUTRIGHT.

4. IN AMBASSADOR HILL'S CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER GUZZETTI ON FEBRUARY 11, LATTER VIRTUALLY CONFIRMED THESE REPORTS. WHEN MATTER OF COMMUNIQUE WAS RAISED, HE REPLIED THAT IT DOUBTLESS HAD TO DO WITH ERP'S EARLIER EFFORT TO PERSUADE GOA TO ACCEPT IT AS POLITICAL PARTY IN RETURN FOR RENUNCIATION OF VIOLENCE. GOA, HE SAID, HAD REFUESED. ONE COULD HAVE NO FAITH IN ERP'S WILLINGNESS TO LIVE UP TO SUCH A COMMITMENT, AND, ANYWAY, MOST IN ERP WERE CRIMINALS AND MURDERERS TO WHOM NO AMNESTY WOULD APPLY.

5. COMMENT: COMUNIQUE IS ONLY INTERESTING AS EVIDENCE THAT ERP IS ON THE RUN; THEY WOULD NOT BE CALLING FOR UNITED FRONT IF THEY WERE NOT. IT BY NO MEANS REPRESENTS A SURRENDER OR RENUNCIATION OF THEIR BASIC TACTICS HOWEVER.

6. EMBASSY GRATEFUL TO QUITO FOR TEXT OF EL COMERCIO ARTICLE, WHICH WAS VERY HELPFUL IN PUTTING THINGS IN PERSPECTIVE.
CHAPLIN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PARTY LINE, LIBERATION FRONTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date: 21-May-2001 12:00:00 am
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason: 1.5D
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BUENOS01232
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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TAGS: PINT, PINS, ASEC, SOPN, AR
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